

VZCZCXRO2132
OO RUEHROV
DE RUEHJM #1953/01 3010601
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 280601Z OCT 09
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6483
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEADWD/DA WASHINGTON DC//DAS-ZD/DACS-ZK//
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC//POLAD//
RHMFIUU/CMC WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/CNO WASHINGTON DC//POLAD//
INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 7921
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4888
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 4738
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 6226
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 4657
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3249

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 001953

SIPDIS

STATE PASS BBG
STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
NSC
CMC WASHINGTON DC FOR POLAD

JERUSALEM ALSO FOR ICD
LONDON FOR HKANONA AND POL - TSOU
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
ROME FOR MFO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (10/28): More Palestinian homes
demolished in East Jerusalem

Main Stories:

The dailies highlight news on the Jerusalem municipality demolishing 8 Palestinian houses yesterday in East Jerusalem due to the lack of appropriate building permits, leaving 80 people homeless. Al-Quds reports that the demolition was carried out under the full protection of the Israeli police. Two Israeli soldiers were injured in confrontations with citizens during the demolition. Al-Quds runs a front-page photo of a blind man sitting on the debris of his demolished room holding the demolition order he received from the authorities.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida and Al-Ayyam run front page stories stating that Secretary Hillary Clinton will visit Israel and the Palestinian Territories on Saturday. The reports note that Clinton will hold meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to discuss the resumption of negotiations. The coverage also notes that Special Envoy George Mitchell will visit the region on Thursday to prepare for Secretary Clinton's visit.

Maan news agency reports on a statement by Fatah leader Abdullah Abu Samhadaneh saying that President Abbas will not run for President in the January elections unless he is asked to do so by Fatah's leaders. Abu Samhadaneh said that Abbas is "eager to rest from this long and arduous trip," but also noted that if Abbas "is instructed by the command [from Palestinian leaders], he will accept the commission." In related news, Al-Ayyam runs a front page story on Hamas leader Yahia Mousa announcing that Hamas will not allow the Central Committee of Elections in Gaza to prepare for the presidential and legislative elections.

Al-Ayyam's lead story highlights news on Israeli settlers attacking Palestinian citizens in Qaryout village in the northern West Bank during their annual olive harvest under the protection of Israeli soldiers. The reports note that 7 Palestinians were injured during the attack.

Hamas newspaper Al-Resalah quotes the spokesperson of Al-Qassam brigades in Gaza Abu Obaida noting that the brigades will continue to kidnap Israeli soldiers to exchange them for Palestinian prisoners

Gaza-based Al-Quds radio reports on Fatah leader Abu Samhadana noting in a press conference that if Hamas continues to refuse to cooperate with the elections committee, the committee will find a way to allow Gazans to participate in the elections without Hamas's approval.

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Al-Quds independent daily runs an editorial under the title: "Why This Determination to Provoke the Feelings of Muslims at Al-Aqsa Mosque?" (10/28): "Why does the Israeli government give the green light to settlers to start unnecessary confrontations between Jews and Muslims at this time in particular? Is it to distract people's attention away from Israel's rejection of US and international demands to halt settlement activity and revive the peace process?"

2) Omar Hilmi Al-Ghoul opines in Al-Hayat Al-Jadida official daily under the title "Who is the Next Presidential Candidate?" (10/28):

JERUSALEM 00001953 002 OF 002

"The only way to fill the constitutional vacuum which is likely to occur is to re-elect President Abbas for another term. Abbas is very popular, as demonstrated in all the opinion polls ... Abbas is the best and most appropriate candidate for president. He is the only one who can build on previous efforts and achieve progress."

RUBINSTEIN